

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows. The following listing replaces all prior versions of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for specifically determining exposure to endotoxin of a subject [[tθ]] suffering from a condition not normally associated with elevated levels of endotoxin comprising the steps of
 - determining the concentration of lipopolysaccharide binding protein in a sample of body fluid from the subject and
 - correlating the concentration of lipopolysaccharide binding protein with a standard indicative of the exposure to endotoxin,
 - wherein LBP concentration above the standard is presumptively diagnostic of exposure of the subject to endotoxin, while a concentration below the standard is not.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said sample is a blood sample.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said sample is a plasma or serum sample.
4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the concentration of lipopolysaccharide binding protein is determined by means of an immunoassay.
5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject is pregnant.
6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has acute lymphoblastic leukemia.
7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has acute graft versus host disease.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has chronic lymphocytic leukemia.
9. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has cutaneous T-cell lymphoma.
10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has type 1 diabetes.
11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has aplastic anemia.
12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has Crohn's Disease.
13. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has psoriasis.
14. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has rheumatoid arthritis.
15. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has scleroderma.
16. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has systemic lupus erythematosus.
17. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the subject has acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).